

treatment and rewarding contributions of equal opportunity, provides a balance that creates trust and integrity between the leaders of the NAACP and the Department of Defense. The working partnership of the NAACP and the Department of Defense ensures that the flame of freedom for all people regardless of color continues to burn.

It is a privilege to recognize the efforts of an organization whose mission is to ensure that people of color are afforded equal access to opportunity. I would ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in the celebration of this 28th Anniversary of the NAACP Annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Military Awards Dinner.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TODD  
KIMZEY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Todd Kimzey of Loma Elementary School.

Todd is the Grand Champion of the grades 4/5 Greater San Diego 24 Challenge® Math Program. I want to applaud him for his success.

The 24 Challenge® Math Program is an activity which helps young students learn how to add, subtract, multiply and divide. It has been used in more than one-hundred-thousand classrooms around the world to teach basic mathematics. Becoming the grand champion of such a competition is quite an accomplishment.

During the 2000–2001 school year, more than 640 elementary and middle school classrooms throughout San Diego County received 24® game materials to be used with second-through eighth-grade students. A U.S. Department of Education grant provided for 24 Game Mathematics Club kits to be sent to participating classrooms in San Diego County. The fruits of this small but worthy contribution can be seen in Todd's triumph.

I enjoyed meeting this young man and other competitors at this local program within my district. It is truly a pleasure to meet these bright students and their families.

HONORING JULIE M. AUSTIN, EX-  
ECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOOTHILL  
TRANSIT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Ms. Julie M. Austin. On July 30, 2003, the Foothill Transit Executive Board will wish a fond farewell to Ms. Austin, who is leaving her position as Executive Director of Foothill Transit and Vice President of Transit Management for ATC/Forsythe & Associates, Inc., a post she has held since 1997.

As Executive Director, Ms. Austin has over all responsibility for implementing Executive Board policies, developing policy rec-

ommendations and providing leadership and vision for the nationally recognized Foothill Transit. Foothill Transit was created in 1988, in one of the largest public-private transit partnerships in the United States, and has delivered cost-effective, safe and efficient bus service to commuters and residents in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, located in the eastern portion of Los Angeles County in southern California. Foothill Transit now operates on 32 routes with nearly 300 buses and almost 17 million annual boardings, a marked increase from the 9.5 million boardings at the time of the creation of the transit agency.

The American Public Transportation Association recognized Foothill Transit in 2001 with a "Bus Safety Gold Award," dubbing Foothill the safest transit agency of its size. Foothill was also named "Outstanding Transit System" of its size by APTA in 1993 and 1995. The National Safety Council, Greater Los Angeles Chapter, recognized Foothill Transit in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2001 with first-place awards for its safety programs.

Ms. Austin played a leadership role in the accomplishments of Foothill Transit, both as Executive Director and as Deputy Executive Director from 1995 to 1997. She also contributed to the success of public transit in Los Angeles County as Director of Management Support from 1993 to 1995 at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and as Senior Transit Analyst/Manager of Transportation Policy from 1989 to 1993 at the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, where she oversaw a three-year evaluation of the Foothill Transit Zone. She also worked for the Southern California Association of Governments for three years and spent several years as a transportation consultant.

A resident of the City of Monrovia, California, Ms. Austin has a bachelor's degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She is active in the American Public Transit Association (Legislative Committee), California Transit Association (Executive Committee), San Gabriel Valley Commerce and Cities Consortium Board, Women's Transportation Seminar, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Transit Committee, and West Covina Chamber of Commerce.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring this truly remarkable leader in the field of public transit in our region, in thanking for her efforts and in wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

EXTEND THE HMONG VETERANS'  
NATURALIZATION ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would allow more Hmong refugees who served in conjunction with American soldiers during the Vietnam War to apply for citizenship with special consideration of their service to our country.

Between 1961 and 1975 Hmong soldiers gathered intelligence, conducted reconnaissance, and undertook other dangerous missions in support of American troops. Tens of thousands of Hmong died during the war and

over 100,000 were forced to flee to refugee camps.

In 2000, under the leadership of the late Rep. Bruce Vento, Congress approved the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act, which provided an exemption from the English language requirement and special consideration on the civics test for those Hmong veterans and their spouses. Later that year, similar legislation was enacted granting the same benefits to widows of Hmong veterans.

Approximately 5,000 Hmong currently living in America took advantage of the Hmong Veteran's Naturalization Act and proudly became citizens. However, many veterans and their spouses missed the May 26, 2003 deadline and are now unable to apply for citizenship with the eased requirements. My legislation would extend that deadline by an additional 18 months in order to give every deserving veteran or surviving widow a chance to apply for citizenship.

Remembering the sacrifices that these brave men and women made while rescuing downed American pilots, serving in guerilla units, and in other operations in support of U.S. troops, we owe it to them to provide every opportunity to become American citizens.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HGTV

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that Home and Garden Television (HGTV), one of the Nation's fastest growing networks, is headquartered in my hometown, Knoxville, Tennessee.

HGTV is a really outstanding cable channel with a wide variety of programs.

Unlike some of the trash that is shown on other networks, the programs on HGTV are positive and helpful and encourage people to improve their lives and their communities.

Joshua Green, Editor of the Washington Monthly, has written a humorous but very complimentary article about HGTV in the July/August issue of his magazine.

I would like to call this article to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Washington Monthly]

HOME SICK; THE ADDICTIVE ALLURE OF HOME  
AND GARDEN TELEVISION

(By Joshua Green)

Over the past two years, as the rest of the economy has gradually tanked, one sector has stubbornly resisted: the housing market. Despite layoffs, the weak dollar, the moribund stock market, and all other manner of economic calamity, house prices are climbing faster than George W. Bush's negative rating in Iraq. In fact, economists credit the housing market's continuing strength with keeping the country out of recession. Much like the "wealth effect" created by the late '90s stock boom, rising real-estate prices have made Americans feel rich enough to keep on spending amply, regardless of the overall economic climate. So the booming housing market is surely welcome news to most Americans—except those, like me, who